submitted its report in August, 2006. The Report stresses upon the need for Energy to Fuel the desired GDP Growth. All the recommendations of the Committee were placed before the Energy Co-ordination Committee (ECC) constituted under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister. While endorsing various recommendations the ECC directed respective Ministeries (Power, Coal, Petroleum & Natural Gas, New and Renewable Energy) to take necessary action for related recommendations. The ECC further constituted Committee of Secretaries (CoS) under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary for monitoring the implementation of various recommendations which are complex in nature and involve intervention by other Ministries such as Ministries of Finance, Railway, Surface Transport, Environment and Forest, Science and Technology etc. Many of recommendation have been accepted by the Government and respective Ministries have taken necessary action for implementation Recommendation are gradually being reviewed by various Ministries for implementation.

The report of the Committee on Integrated Energy Policy has recommended that reducing energy requirements and increasing efficiency are two very important measures to increase energy security in addition to augmenting domestic energy resources. For India it is not a question of choosing among alternate domestic energy resources but exploiting all available domestic energy resources to the maximum as long as they are competitive.

Link between Commenwealth Games Village and Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium

*302. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any time-frame has been determined for the proposed link between the Commonwealth Village site and Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium passing near Humayun's Tomb for the Commonwealth Games to complete the project in time;

(b) whether any stand off between Government and Delhi Urban Arts Commission (DUAC) over several projects for Commonwealth Games has not been resolved so far, thus causing inordinate delay in the completion of the project; and

(c) the remedial measures being taken by Government to resolve the deadlock?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir, There is no stand off between Government and Delhi Urban Art Commission (DUAC). However, due diligence by the DUAC entails interaction among various agencies. With a view to achieving greater coordination between various agencies involved in the implementation of projects related to Commonwealth Games and the DUAC and to ensure time bound action on such clearances, a Group has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development with representatives of organizations/agencies concerned as members.

Use of genetically modified paddy

†*303. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Approval Committee has given the permission to use genetically modified paddy in the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that basmati rice producing areas in Uttar Pradesh, where the use of genetically modified paddy has been allowed would be destroyed by the infection caused by the said paddy;

(c) if so, whether Government would take any effective steps to prevent the same keeping in view the damage by genetically modified paddy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir, However, the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) has approved the confined experimental field of genetically modified (GM) paddy developed by M/s Maharashtra Hybrid Company, Mumbai during Rabi-2007 to generate biosafety and agronomic data at 11 locations, *viz.* Anand in Gujarat Bhandara and Rajgad in Maharshtra, South 24 Parganas and Midnapur in West Bengal, Gaya in Bihar, Ranchi in Jharkhand, Davangere and Mandya in Karnataka and Tanjore and Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu.

(b) As no experimental field trials on GM Paddy is being conducted in any parts of Uttar Pradesh, the question of destroying the basmati rice producing areas in the State does not arise.

(c) and (d) To prevent the possible contamination due to gene flow during experimental field trials, the GEAC, in accordance with the Indian Minimum Seed Certification Standards, 1988, stipulates stringent norms which include a minimum of 200 m isolation distance as well as biological and physical barriers. Further, in accordance with Hon'ble Supreme Court direction dated 8.5.2007, all applicants are required to submit a validated event specific protocol to detect the level of contamination at 0.01% LOD before initiating the field trials. The Government has also taken a decision not to permit transgenic research in crop commodities such as Basmati where international trade may be affected. The GEAC has also taken a decision that field trials with transgenic rice would not be conducted in proximity to basmati growing areas.

Protection of endangered animals

*304. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the population of the endangered animals, including lions, tigers and elephants, is dwinding in the reserve forests each passing year;

(b) if so, the details for the last three years; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to protect these animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) No. such reports has come to notice as far as lions and elephants are concerned. However, as per the ongoing the All India tiger estimation figures relating to four States (Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra), using the refined methodology endorsed by the Tiger Task Force, there is a decline in tiger population in areas outside tiger reserves and protected area. No significant change has been noticed in the status of tiger population in tiger reserves and protected areas of these States.